

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 123192
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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FOLLOWING REPEAT OTTAWA 02398 ACTION SECSTATE INFO BRUSSELS
CANBERRA LONDON PARIS PRETORIA DATED MAY 10:

QTE:LIMITED OFFICIAL USE OTTAWA 02398

BRUSSELS ALSO FOR USEEC

PARIS ALSO FOR USOECD

DEPT. PASS JUSTICE FOR ASST. ATTORNEY GENERAL SHENEFIELD

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: ETRD, OECD, AS, UK, FR, SF, CA

SUBJECT: OUTCOME OF FEDERAL GRAND JURY INVESTIGATION OF
URANIUM PRODUCERS' CARTEL: INITIAL CANADIAN REACTION.

REF: STATE 118119

1. SUMMARY. PRELIMINARY GOC REACTION TO DEPT. OF JUSTICE'S DECISION TO CHARGE GULF WITH MISDEMEANOR WAS ONE OF SATISFACTION AND RELIEF. PRESS REPORTS HAVE BEEN FLAT AND DESCRIPTIVE. ISSUE WAS NOT RAISED IN PARLIAMENT.

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END SUMMARY.

2. GOC OFFICIALS HAVE NOT COMMENTED PUBLICALLY ON DECISION, ALTHOUGH EM&R MINISTER GILLESPIE DEFENDED CANADA'S PARTICIPATION IN THE URANIUM CARTEL. DURING CALL ON EXTAFF ASSISTANT UNDER SECRETARY MCPHAIL TO DISCUSS OTHER MATTERS, MCPHAIL (WHO HAS HEADED GOC DELEGATIONS IN BILATERAL DIS-

CUSSIONS OF URANIUM) NOTED TO EMBOFF WITH SOME SATISFACTION AND RELIEF THAT JUSTICE DEPARTMENT RELEASE (REFTEL) WAS DIRECTED ONLY AT GULF OIL CORPORATION AND MADE NO REFERENCE TO CANADIAN GOVERNMENT POLICIES. MCPHAIL SAID HE HAD NOT YET SEEN INFORMATION DOCUMENT FILED BY JUSTICE WITH COURT BUT HIS PRELIMINARY REACTION WAS THAT INTENSIVE CONSULTATIONS ON THIS ISSUE HAD BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN AVOIDING A SERIOUS POLICY CLASH. HE SAID HE THOUGHT CONSIDERABLE EFFORT HAD BEEN MADE BY BOTH SIDES TO UNDERSTAND IMPERATIVES AND CONSTRAINTS OPERATING ON EACH OTHER AND WAS GRATIFIED THAT ACCOMMODATION OF INTERESTS SEEMED TO HAVE BEEN ACHIEVED. MCPHAIL SAID HE INTENDED TO REFLECT THESE VIEWS IN REPORTING TO MINISTERS.

3. DESPITE NARROW FOCUS OF CHARGE MADE AGAINST GULF OIL, OTHER EXTAFF OFFICIALS EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT PRESS OR POLITICAL OPPOSITION WOULD NEVERTHELESS INTERPRET U.S. DECISION AS AN INAPPROPRIATE EXTRATERRITORIAL APPLICATION OF U.S. LAW. HOWEVER, PRESS REPORTS HAVE BEEN LOW-KEY AND DESCRIPTIVE. ISSUE WAS NOT RAISED DURING MAY 10 QUESTION PERIOD IN HOUSE OF COMMONS. ENDERS

UNQUOTE VANCE

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